

Serial No. 09/557,835
Attorney's Docket No. 1948-4706

RESPONSE TO §102 REJECTIONS:

In the Office Action, claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Staiger et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,065,287, hereafter Staiger) or Strobel et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,204,820, hereafter Strobel). Additionally, claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Lindae et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,924,359, hereafter Lindae) or Bunse et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,945,454, hereafter Bunse). For the following reasons, the above rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Applicants maintain that Staiger, Strobel, Lindae and Bunse, each individually or in combination, fail to disclose or teach all the features recited in claims 1 and 8.

Strobel and Staiger

Both Strobel and Staiger are directed to a method for producing a reflective surface for distributing light from a light source according to a desired light pattern for application with a vehicle headlight. The reflector is asymmetric in order that the light reflected by the reflector distributes the available light on a surface to be illuminated. The light is distributed according to the brightness desired at the various spots so that an undesired brightness increase or decrease is avoided. (see Staiger, col. 4, lines 41-57, and Strobel, col. 4, lines 56-68). To this end, Staiger and Strobel clearly avoid the creation of zones of different light intensities. Therefore, neither Staiger nor Strobel discloses that the desired light pattern contains two or more distinct zones of maximum light intensity.

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Lindae

Lindae is directed to a reflector for a low beam, in which two or more distinct zones of maximum light intensity cannot be found. With the asymmetric reflector disclosed in Lindae, the original beam of light produced by the various reflector surfaces is substantially equivalent to the low beam allowed by the law, so that the dispersion plate can largely be dispensed with. Thus, Lindae also fails to disclose a reflector that is adapted to create in a beam two distinct zones of maximum light intensity.

Bunse

Bunse discloses a reflector for a dimmed beam, in which a desired light distribution is achieved without a correcting lens. More specifically, in Bunse, a desirable light distribution is achieved without a correcting lens in horizontal and vertical areas perpendicular to a middle axis of the headlight. (see Abstract). However, Bunse also fails to disclose two or more distinct zones of maximum light intensity in the desired light distribution.

Therefore, claims 1 and 8 are believed to be distinguishable over the cited prior art at least for the reasons noted above. Likewise, claims 2-7 and 9-11 are also believed to be distinguishable over the cited prior art based on their dependency on claims 1 and 8, respectively.

Additionally, the Applicants respectfully request that Examiner provide the technical basis for rejecting the claims so the Applicants may more effectively respond to the rejections to those claims. Specifically, the Examiner has not particularly pointed out what sections or elements in the prior art being relied on to anticipate the limitations recited in claims 1 and 8.

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CONCLUSIONS

In view of the above amendments and arguments, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are patentable over the prior art of record, and are now in condition for allowance.

AUTHORIZATIONS

The Commissioner is also hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this filing to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1948-4706. Likewise, any overpayment is credited to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1948-4706.

Respectfully submitted,

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